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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

The appointment of Oscar H. Johnson as regional director of Region 3 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with headquarters at Minneapolis, Minn., was announced today by Dr. Ira W. Gabrielson, Director of the Service. The appointment will become effective on May 1.

Mr. Johnson succeeds Burnie W. Maurek who is resigning to devote his time to conservation work as a private citizen. Mr. Maurek has been associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service since August 1934 and regional director at Minneapolis since that office was established in 1940. Prior to his Federal employment, he was connected with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department for 15 years, four years of which he served as State Game and Fish Commissioner.

Mr. Johnson, who has been assistant regional director in Region 1, with headquarters at Portland, Oreg., since April 1942, joined the Service in July 1939 when he was appointed as a Federal Aid Regional Inspector at Denver, Colo. In August 1940 he was transferred, in the same capacity, to Albuquerque, N. Mex., where he remained until his promotion to the Portland regional office in 1942. A native of South Dakota, Mr. Johnson served as Director of that state's Department of Game and Fish from July 1925 to February 1939.

In his new position, Mr. Johnson will direct field activities of the Service in Region 3 which comprises the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana.